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25 January 2006 Amendment
Responsive to 25 October 2005 Office Action

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A map information device comprising:
a storage unit for map data recorded in a rectangular coordinate system;
a route search unit for searching for a route based on information on two geographical points;
an area generator unit to set an area along the route between the two geographical points by correcting a width of the area based on latitude values of the routes; and
a map search unit to then search for map data for the corrected width area and to output the map data of the corrected width area;
~~wherein the area generator unit establishes the area by adding corrections to correct a width of the area based on latitude values of the route.~~

Claim 2 (Currently Amended) A map information device comprising:
a storage unit for map data;
a route search unit for searching for a route between two geographical points;
~~an area generator unit to set an area along the route between the two geographical points;~~
a processor unit to simplify the figure of the area; and route by reducing a number of nodes consisting the route;

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a map search unit to then search for map data for the area of the simplified route from a map database and to output the simplified area map data;

~~wherein the processor unit reduces a number of nodes consisting the route from the nodes included in the area generated by the area generator of the area of the simplified route.~~

Claim 3 (Currently Amended) A map information device connected to a terminal, comprising:

a route search unit for searching for a route based on information for two geographical points from ~~said~~the terminal;

a route area predictor for predicting enroute stopping points along the route based on the information from the terminal;

an area generator unit to set ~~and~~ search area between the two geographical points along the route and to expand the search area along the route in the vicinity of the predicted enroute stopping points; and

a map search unit to then search for map data for the search area, which is expanded in the vicinity of the predicted enroute stopping points, from a map database and to output the map data ~~off~~for the search area expanded in the vicinity of the predicted enroute stopping points;

~~wherein the area generator unit expands a range for an area along the route in the vicinity of the enroute stopping points as the search area.~~

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Claim 4 (Currently Amended) A map information device according to claim 3, wherein ~~said~~the route area predictor establishes the enroute stopping points based on ~~the~~a predicted trip time schedule along the route.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended) A map information device according to claim 3, wherein the route area predictor establishes the enroute stopping points based on ~~the~~ remaining fuel value information received from the terminal.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended) A map information device according to claim 4~~3~~, wherein the route area predictor establishes the enroute stopping points based on ~~the~~a specified rest break time period or a continuous driving time.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended) A map information device according to claim 3 comprising:

a processor unit to simplify ~~the~~a line figure of the route ~~searched by the route search unit~~by reducing a number of nodes consisting the route,

wherein ~~the processor unit reduces a number of node consisting of the line figure of the route and the map area generator unit sets an area based on a~~long the simplified line figureroute.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended) A map information device according to claim 7: wherein the processor omits the nodes whose distance to next nodes are equal or less than ~~the~~a predetermined value.

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Claim 9 (Currently Amended) A map information device according to claim 4 comprising:

a processor unit to simplify ~~the~~ a line figure of the route searched by the route search unit by reducing a number of nodes consisting the route,

wherein ~~the processor unit reduces a number of nodes included in the line figure of the route and the map area generator unit sets an area based on a along~~ the simplified line figure route.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended) A map information device according to claim 2,

wherein the map search unit subdivides ~~said~~ the area into multiple area units, and determines map data that intersects or is included in the areas by the subdivided area unit.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended) A map information device according to claim 7, wherein the map search unit subdivides ~~said~~ said the expanded search area into multiple area units, and determines map data that intersects or is included in the expanded search area by subdivided area units.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended) A map information device according to claim 2, with the map data based on rectangular coordinates, wherein the area generator unit establishes the area by ~~adding corrections to correct~~ correcting a width of the area based on latitude values of the route.

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Claim 13 (Currently Amended) A map information device according to claim 7, with the map data based on rectangular coordinates, wherein the area generator unit establishes the expanded search area by ~~adding corrections to correct~~ correcting a width of the expanded search area based on latitude values of the route.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended) A map information device according to claim 3, wherein the area generator unit extracts POI at the periphery of the predicted enroute stopping points and expands the search area along the route to include ~~the~~ route to the POI.

Claim 15 (New) A map information device according to claim 1, wherein the correcting of the width of the area based on latitude values of the routes is conducted without correcting of a height of the area.

Claim 16 (New) A map information device according to claim 1, wherein the map data pertains to topographical features of a spherical body, and wherein the correcting of the width of the area based on latitude values is conducted to compensate for longitudinal width changes present along a latitude direction, from an equator to pole of the spherical body.

Claim 17 (New) A map information device according to claim 16, wherein a different width correction value is applied for correcting the width, for different ranges of latitude values.

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Claim 18 (New) A map information device according to claim 1, wherein a different width correction value is applied for correcting the width, for different ranges of latitude values.

Claim 19 (New) A map information device according to claim 1, wherein the correcting of the width of the area based on latitude values of the routes, is conducted with a correction value which is different from a value used for any correcting of a height of the area.